

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1238

By Beck

A RESOLUTION to honor Judge Hamilton Gayden on the occasion of his retirement from the bench.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to honor an outstanding jurist who, having faithfully discharged his duties for many years, is embarking upon a much-deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, Judge Hamilton Gayden is one such noteworthy jurist, who has served with distinction as judge of the First Circuit Court of Davidson County's 20th District since his appointment to the bench in 1978, and he has since been reelected five times; he also served as Presiding Judge for the Davidson County Trial Courts from 1996 to 1997; and

WHEREAS, before being appointed to the First Circuit Court, Hamilton Gayden served as a Davidson County General Sessions Court judge from 1974 to 1978; and

WHEREAS, after attending high school in New York, Hamilton Gayden graduated from Battle Ground Academy in Franklin; and

WHEREAS, he earned an undergraduate degree with honors in 1961 from Vanderbilt University, where he was a member of the basketball team, and received his Juris Doctor degree from Vanderbilt University Law School in 1964; and

WHEREAS, Judge Gayden proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army and is a member of the American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Hamilton Gayden was engaged in private practice as a sole practitioner from 1971 to 1973, having earlier worked with the firms of Dearborn Law Firm, Smith & Cantrell, the Law Office of Larry Levine, and the Hofstetter & Hofstetter Firm, as well as the Metro Nashville Legal Department; and

WHEREAS, an active and important part of his community and profession, Judge Gayden is a member of the Nashville Bar Association, Nashville Bar Fellows, Sister Cities, the

Exchange Club, the Vanderbilt Rebounders, and Al Menah Temple, and he is a board member of the University Club of Nashville, of which he is currently president-elect; and

WHEREAS, he previously served as a member of the Boy Scouts Board, the Board of Regional Intervention Project, and the Franklin Jaycees Board; and

WHEREAS, the published author of the books *To Circle the Cross* and *Miscarriage of Justice*, Judge Hamilton Gayden is also a member of the crime writers' network Sisters in Crime; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Hamilton Gayden is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Paulette Gayden, and his three children; and

WHEREAS, he is a member of Crosspoint Church; and

WHEREAS, Judge Gayden exemplifies the commitment to equality and justice under the law that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Judge Hamilton Gayden has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his fellow members of the bench and bar, the parties appearing before his court, and the citizens of the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Judge Hamilton Gayden our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, applauding his years of dedicated public service as judge of the First Circuit Court and wishing him every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.